UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/653
S/24793
10 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 143
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 5 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 4 November 1992 (A/47/652-S/24792), I have the honour to enclose herewith, annexed to the present letter, the "Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia", adopted at the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Committee of Ministers, held at Strasbourg on 5 November 1992, and chaired by His Excellency Hikmet Çetin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, in his capacity as current Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Declaration on the situation in the former Yugoslavia

1. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe expresses its deep concern about the impending human tragedy which threatens to engulf the former Yugoslavia as winter approaches.

2. It considers that the scale of the ever-increasing suffering calls for immediate and resolute action by the international community, and underlines the urgent need to ensure safe areas and to provide emergency relief and shelter for the refugees.

3. The Committee of Ministers condemns the generalized and persistent recourse to violence and the brutal violations of human rights and international humanitarian law which are the cause of untold human suffering and constitute at present the main obstacle to the provision of indispensable aid.

4. The Committee of Ministers recalls its Declaration on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, adopted on 11 September 1992 at Istanbul, and in which it

- condemned "ethnic cleansing";

- declared that it would not recognize any situation created by a policy of faits accomplis;

- expressed its grave concern over the growing danger that hostilities may spread to other republics and territories;

- insisted that forced expulsion, deportation, attempts to change by force the ethnic composition of regions, as well as illegal detention, cease immediately and that the previous situation be re-established.

5. The Committee of Ministers

- supports the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Security Council to take the necessary measures with a view to enforcing compliance with the latter's decisions;

- recalls the absolute necessity for all the Parties to honour the totality of the commitments they accepted at the London Conference of last August;

- expresses its firm support for the action of the Geneva Conference. It recalls its support for the maintenance of the Bosnian State and of its present frontiers, the need for the agreement of the three Parties (Serbs, Croats and Muslims), as well as its support for the

draft Constitution for Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on democratic principles, including the protection of human rights and of minorities.

6. In the framework of work in progress, the Committee of Ministers, in the light of a report by the Secretary-General on talks with the Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Geneva Conference, Lord Owen and Mr. Cyrus Vance, and after contacts with the Presidents of the European Court and the Commission of Human Rights, welcomes the idea of creating, within the framework of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a judicial control of human rights with the participation of the Council of Europe.

The Committee of Ministers instructs its Deputies to consider, as a matter of urgency, the political and legal aspects of the implementation of such a proposal within the framework of the Geneva Convention.

7. Finally, the Committee of Ministers reiterates its support for the efforts being made in the area of humanitarian aid, to protect displaced persons and refugees by member States and by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and requests the Social Development Fund of the Council of Europe to examine all possibilities for action in this field.